(c) No. of pending complaints is as follows:

1999-2000	Nil
2000-2001	Nil
2001-2002	Nil
2002-2003 (upto February, 2003)	49 (Under Process)

(d) No, Sir. As Bihar Telecom Circle was able to dispose of almost all complaints in the Telephone Adalats already held.

Software exports

*328. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the slowdown in growth of software exports, over 55,000 fresh engineers from the Government recognized colleges are yet to get jobs;

(b) whether a large number of Information Technology graduates and post-graduates had emigrated and returned to India after September 11, 2001; if so, the estimated number thereof;

(c) the latest assessment of the unemployed Information Technology engineers, graduates and post-graduates, and other Information Technology workers in the country; and

(d) what steps are being taken to provide them with employment and open up fresh avenues for Information Technology Engineers, graduates and post-graduates, including those emigrating from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) According to a recent study of National Association of Software Services Companies (NASSCOM), the Indian software and services industry is expected to employ about 6,50,000 persons by March, 2003, an increase of more than 1,25,000 (which is 24%) over the numbers employed in March, 2002. Approximately 55,000 engineers graduating from IT related courses (including Electrical, Electronics and Communication etc.) join the IT labour pool every year.

(b) According to NASSCOM, post September 11, 2001 the industry has witnessed tightening of immigration requirements by most countries. This has led to more work being done offshore in India. As per the current visa regimes, Indian software professionals travelling to the US, UK and other countries for specific projects, are on the payroll of the Indian company and return to India after completion of these projects.

(c) NASSCOM-McKinsey study has brought out that if the Indian software and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry has to achieve an annual revenue of US$ 77 billion in 2008, then the demand for professionals will be approximately 1.1 million people by 2008. Supply of professionals, on the other hand, based on current trends, will be 8,85,000 professionals by 2008.

(d) Several policy measures have been taken to facilitate infrastructural development and attract foreign investments in the area of IT for improving the position of employment in the country. Some of the measures are setting up new Software Technology Parks, Community Information Centres, e-governance applications, Media Lab Asia, networking of educational institutions and IT enabled services.

Following two initiatives are taken in order to address the problems which are likely to be faced by the Indian IT professionals in the coming years:—

* Promoting new markets (other than USA) like EU, Latin America, Asian region etc.

* Making offshore developments/services more attractive by granting fiscal concession and increasing confidence level of clients abroad to set up units in India.

Extradition treaty with France

*329. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed an extradition treaty with France recently and if so, the details thereof; and